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Office of Intellectual Property Counsel  
3M Innovative Properties Company  
PO Box 33427  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427  
651/733 1500

PATENT

Docket No

57347US002

Transmittal of Patent Application - Rule 1.53(b)

Box: Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Inventor(s): Leif O. Erickson  
Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR APPLYING A SPLICING TAPE TO A ROLL OF SHEET MATERIAL**

1.  Enclosed is the above-mentioned new patent application. It includes 20 sheet(s) of drawings.
2.  Enclosed is an executed declaration or oath.
3.  Enclosed are an application assignment to 3M Innovative Properties Company and a completed Assignment Recordation Cover Sheet.
4.  Enclosed is a Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) \_\_\_\_\_. (if foreign priority is claimed).
5.  Enclosed is \_\_\_\_\_.  
6.  The fee for filing the application is computed as follows:

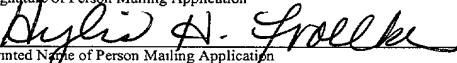
Claims As Filed				
(1) For	(2) Number Filed	(3) Number Extra	(4) Rate	(5) Basic Fee \$740
Total Claims	18 -20 =	0	x \$18	\$0
Independent Claims	3 -3 =	0	x \$84	\$0
Additional fee for filing one or more multiple dependent claims			\$280	\$0
			Total amount due →	\$740

7.  Please charge to Deposit Account 13-3723 any fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required to file and during the entire pendency of this application. This authorization includes the fee for any extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) that may be necessary. To the extent any such extension should become necessary it is hereby requested. A copy of this transmittal letter for fee processing is enclosed.
8.  Enclosed is a return receipt postcard

Respectfully submitted

Registration Number 47,465	Telephone Number (651) 733-0649
Date December 21, 2001	

Signature 
Printed Name Melissa E. Buss

Certificate of Express Mailing	
Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.10 I certify that this application is being deposited on the date indicated below with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.	
Express Mail Mailing Label No EL596982160US	Signature of Person Mailing Application 
Date of Deposit December 21, 2001	Printed Name of Person Mailing Application Hylis H. Froelke